GAP in Supply and Demand of Edible Oils

*485. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of supply-demand gap of edible oils in the country which is necessitating import thereof; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) The indigenous production of edible oils has increased from 47.2 lakhs tonnes in 1989-90 to 66.5 lakhs tonnes in 1996-97. But the demand has been increasing at a faster rate due to growth in population and increase in the level of standard of living, thus widening the gap.

(b). (i) The increase in production achieved so far has been mainly because of increase in area. Measures will now be intensified to increase the productivity which is low as compared to international level.

(ii) Intensification of efforts for implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme, area expansion through sequential cropping, inter-cropping;

(iii) Assistance for oil palm development;

(iv) Distribution of mini kits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements and chemicals etc. In addition, front line and general demonstrations are conducted on farmers fields to transfer the production technology.

(v) Identification of equipments for modernisation of processing units.

Review of the Implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme

*486 SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if, so the details thereof;

(c) the names of districts in each State where Crop Insurance Scheme was started during 1995-96;

(d) the funds provided by Government for the Scheme during the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the present coverage of the scheme in terms of area, farmers and crops in various States, State-wise; and

(f) the extent of expansion of the scheme proposed during the current year and during the next three years and funds provided for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (f) A Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) covering cereals, oilseeds and pulses crops has been in operation since kharif 1985 season. It covers all the farmers availing institutional loans for the production of insured crops. The insured crops are as shown in Statement-I (*see* below) State-wise details of area and farmers covered under the CCIS during the last three years are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 180, Annexure No. 77]

The scheme has been reviewed with a view to covering non-loanee farmers and to reduce the unit area. A decision has been taken to introduced a Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme (PCIS) in 25 district of 9 States. A list showing names of the States and districts where the PCIS is to be implemented is annexed as Statement-